

**A NEW RECORD FOR *HERIMOSA ALBOVENATA* (WATERHOUSE)
(LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE) IN THE CENTRAL-WEST
SLOPES AND PLAINS OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

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Abstract

Herimosa albovenata (Waterhouse, 1940) is recorded for the first time from Dubbo, New South Wales. These records provide an intermediate locality for the species between previously identified populations in Gunnedah and near Bredbo, NSW.

Introduction

Herimosa albovenata (Waterhouse, 1940) has a scattered, disjunct distribution ranging from Gunnedah in the central-west slopes and plains of New South Wales to Western Australia. Three subspecies are currently recognised (Braby 2000). The northeastern subspecies, *Herimosa albovenata weemala* (L.E. Couchman, 1954), was originally described as *Anisynta albovenata weemala* from the holotype collected at Gunnedah by F.S. Paul in 1943 (Couchman 1954) and subsequently assigned to genus *Herimosa* Atkins (1994).

To date the only known locations for *H. a. weemala* have been Gunnedah and Mount Kaputar (Braby 2000). The latter record is poorly documented as to date and exact location: Daniels (1979) noted that Common and Waterhouse (1972) recorded *H. albovenata* from Mount Kaputar attributed to an observation by C.W. Frazier; Daniels collected in the area during January and March and therefore did not observe the species. The last specimen known to have been collected at Gunnedah was on 7 September 1980 by G. Miller. Braby (2000) suggested that southern NSW populations belong to subspecies *Herimosa albovenata albovenata* and that no intermediate populations had been identified.

New records

In the early afternoon of 9 September 2012, a small skipper was identified by ASM when it chased a *Junonia villida* (Fabricius) that was flying along a dirt path between Minore Road and the railway line (-32.254251; 148.53447) in Dubbo, New South Wales. This area is predominantly mallee scrub with interspersed ironbark. When the butterfly landed on the path it was captured and found to be *Herimosa albovenata*. No further specimens were seen that day despite considerable searching.

A week later (16 September 2012), a second specimen was collected at exactly the same location and a further specimen seen nearby (but not collected). Extensive searching of the area failed to detect further specimens.

These two new records add to the suggestion that *H. albovenata* is more widespread than suspected, but cryptic in its habits. Photographs of the Dubbo specimens (Fig. 1) suggest similarities to both the Bredbo (*H. a. albovenata*: Fig. 2) and Gunnedah (*H. a. weemala*: Fig. 3) populations. However, further specimens are required to establish the infra-specific status of the Dubbo population.



Figs 1-3. *Herimosa albovenata*: (1, top row) upperside (A and C) and underside (B and D) of both specimens from Dubbo, NSW, September 2012; both in collection of ASM; (2, middle row) upperside (A and C) and underside (B and D) of two specimens from near Bredbo, NSW, October 2013; both in collection of ASM; (3, bottom row) upperside (A and C) and underside (B and D) of two specimens from Gunnedah, NSW, September 1978; both in collection of R. Mayo.

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